

Utah Health Information Technology Strategic Plan 2021-2025

A Collaborative Planning Document

By

Utah Digital Health Service Commission (UDHSC)

November 2021

Health and Health Information Technology (HIT) Visions

[Our statewide health vision](#) is for Utah to be a place where *all* people can enjoy the best health possible, where *all* can live, grow, and prosper in healthy and safe communities.

[Our statewide vision for health IT](#) is for Utah to be a place where the secure and efficient use and exchange of electronic mental, social, behavioral, and physical health information will result in improved health status, better health care, lower cost, and healthier communities.

Health IT Guiding Principles

In 2021-2025, Utah will move forward under following **guiding principles**:

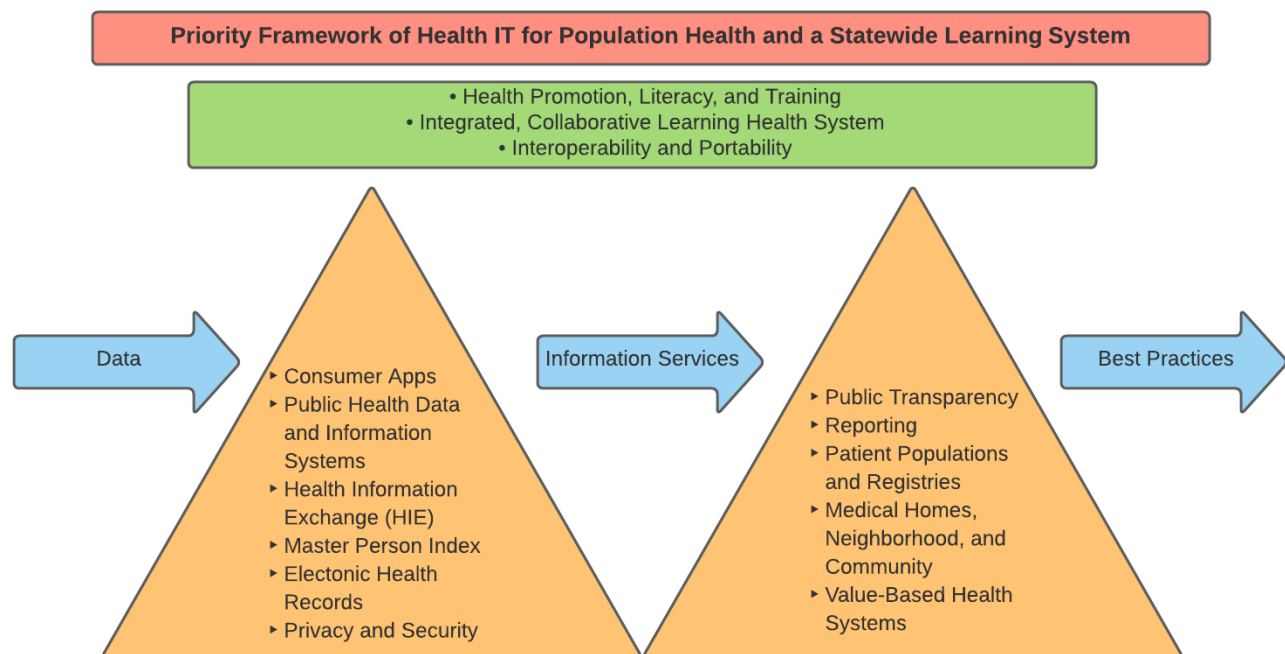
Put individuals first.	Embrace person-centered care that values the whole individual, including their goals, values, culture, and privacy.
Focus on value.	Promote and pursue activities that improve health and care quality, efficiency, safety, affordability, equity, effectiveness, and access.
Build a culture of secure access to health information.	Support secure health information access, exchange, and use by individuals, caregivers, healthcare providers, public health professionals, and other stakeholders.
Put research into action.	Strengthen feedback loops between scientific, public health, and healthcare communities to efficiently translate evidence into clinical practice and improvement.
Encourage innovation and competition.	Support and protect innovation and competition in health IT that result in new solutions and business models for better care and improved outcomes.
Be a responsible steward.	Develop health IT policies through open, transparent, and accountable processes; use federal resources judiciously; and leverage the expertise of the private sector to provide technology and services to execute on these policies, as appropriate.
Build robust Health IT solutions.	Health IT applications and infrastructure should prioritize interoperability and portability. Health IT must support a collaborative learning system, improve efficiency of health promotion, and enhance IT literacy and training.

State HIT Plan History

- 2013 – State Innovation Model Grant funded planning for statewide IT initiatives. Commission’s chair co-chaired these efforts

- 2015 – Commission updated the Utah Health IT Vision, Principles and Priorities
- 2016 – The Commission led the developed and oversight of the first Utah’s Health IT Strategic Plan (2016-2020) as well as Performance measures
- 2017 – Updated State HIT plan to align with ONC National HIT Strategic Plan
- 2018 – Updated plan with current and potential projects and established goal review and measurement dashboard cycle.
 - January – Goal deep dive
 - March – Review dashboard and plan changes
 - May – Goal deep dive
 - July – Vote on plan changes, Goal deep dive
 - August – Utah Department of Health presents HIT plan to Medicaid for inclusion in Medicaid updates
 - September – Review dashboard
 - November – Goal deep dive
- 2019 – Reviewed each goal, objective, and project
- 2021 – The Commission developed Utah’s Health IT Strategic Plan for 2021-2025

Priority Framework for Health IT



Utah Health IT Status:

The Office of the National Coordinator used to provide state-by-state data for certain metrics which Utah could use to evaluate outcomes against other jurisdictions. ONC has stopped providing these numbers. The

commission will consider whether new measures should be established, and if so, which ones they will use to gauge success.

The Commission will track projects related to the strategic plan, and ensure interested entities and communities are informed of and involved in those projects, where it is appropriate.

Utah Health IT Strategic Goals and Objectives in 2021 - 2025:

GOAL 1: ADVANCE THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES THROUGH PERSON-CENTERED AND SELF-MANAGED HEALTH

OBJECTIVES:

- 1A.** Increase the use of individual health information for engagement and shared decision making as part of the team – Enable individuals to understand and act upon available cost and quality information
- 1B.** Advance individuals' abilities to "access, control and amend" their health information
- 1C.** Increase adoption and use of patient portals and consumer-focused HIT
- 1D.** Promote patient education and use of HIT tools for wellness and self-care
- 1E.** Increase effective patient/consumer-mediated and generated exchange
- 1F.** Advance individual's access to and appropriate sharing of public health data
- 1G.** Understand and Address social determinants of health (SDOH)

GOAL 2: ENHANCE THE DELIVERY AND EXPERIENCE OF CARE

OBJECTIVES:

- 2A.** Leverage health IT to improve clinical practice and promote safe, high-quality care
- 2B.** Use health IT to expand access and connect patients to care
- 2C.** Reduce regulatory and administrative burden on providers
- 2D.** Foster competition, transparency, and affordability in healthcare, including promoting clear and accessible pricing information
- 2E.** Enable efficient management of health IT resources and a statewide workforce confidently using health IT

GOAL 3: ENHANCE UTAH'S INTEROPERABLE HEALTH IT INFRASTRUCTURE

OBJECTIVES:

- 3A.** Endorse basic guidelines for HIT standards that align with and strengthen national certification requirements, including interoperability, to increase effective health information exchange
- 3B.** Protect privacy and security of electronic health information by increasing adherence to federal electronic health information security guidelines in independent facilities and practices
- 3C.** Increase functionality and effectiveness of state-wide Health Information Exchange (HIE) and support increased connections with other data sources including integrated delivery systems (IDS), HIEs, and providers.
- 3D.** Increase ability to exchange public health information with providers through various exchange methods to improve population health
- 3E.** Develop governance, access, and support for health data to be made available for analysis and use
- 3F.** Increase Utah's influence on the national forums related to effective delivery of care through HIT
- 3G.** DHSC will attend conferences to promote interoperability work.

GOAL 4: SUPPORT INNOVATION AND APPLIED RESEARCH TO EFFICIENTLY IMPLEMENT STATEWIDE HEALTH IT INITIATIVES

OBJECTIVES:

- 4A.** Promote collaborative innovation and research to advance implementation, utilization, and improvement of health IT in public, private and academic settings
- 4B.** Broaden statewide partnership and engagement in implementing the Utah HIT strategic plan
- 4C.** Disseminate evidence-based best practices to enhance statewide adoption of technology solutions

Appendix A – Contributors

Utah Digital Health Service Commission Members:

Benjamin Hiatt

Member of the public who is not involved with digital health service

Brian Chin

IT Professional Involved in Digital Health Service

Chris Klomp

Telehealth Service Advocate

Dallas Moore

Non-Physician Health Care Provider Involved in Digital Health Service

Matthew McCullough

Telehealth Consumer Advocate

Patricia Henrie-Barrus

Mental or Behavioral Health Representative

Preston Marx

Rural Health Consultant

Randall Rupper

Represents User of Digital Health Service in a Public or Private Institution

Seraphine Kapsandoy Jones

Nursing Representative

Todd Bailey

Member Uses Digital Health Service in Serving Medically Underserved Populations